regions of vaster extent seem well fitted to fill this niche in an artificial desert.

To me, this occupation of a narrow, highly specialized habitat by a comparatively small group of ferns illustrates beautifully the ecological principle that given a particular set of conditions, only those organisms *best* fitted to exploit those conditions can successfully compete for the space available. With myriads of individuals of mesophytic flowering plants and ferns growing nearby, often at the very bases of the walls, there is no dearth of migrants from adjacent colonies. Yet these luckless migrants from moister habitats die. Only the xerophytes survive in these deserts of the walls.

I wish to express here my appreciation of aid extended me by Dr. William R. Maxon, who furnished determinations of species previously unknown to me and verified my tentative identification of others.

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A New Argentine Variety in Notholaena

C. A. WEATHERBY

In a collection of ferns recently received from Dr. Angel L. Cabrera of the Museo de la Plata is a plant from the Sierra de la Ventana which, though obviously closely related to typical *Notholaena Buchtienii* Rosenst. and like it in general habit, in the scales of the rhizome, and in the type of tomentum, yet differs enough in lesser characters to make it worth distinguishing as:

Notholaena Buchtienii var. **ventanensis** var. nov., a varietate typica differt statura minore (ut videtur), frondibus ad 15 cm. tantum longis, tomento paginae inferioris laminae pallide brunneo, pagina superiore dense persistenterque albido-tomentosa.

ARGENTINA: Partido de Tornquist, Sierra de la Ventana, Estancia Funke, Cerros Grietas, November 14, 1943, *Cabrera* 8101, type, in Herb. Gray. Here should